THE

WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

For MONDAY, November 11, 1805.

Description of the Inhabitants of New South Wales.

(Concluded from Page 872.)

WHILST Bennelong, the Botany Bay chief, was in England, he was presented to many of the principal nobility and first families in the kingdom, and received from many of them presents of clothes, and other articles, which a savage of any other country would have deemed almost inestimable. It was not so, however, with Bennelong; he was no sooner re-landed in his own country, than he forgot, or at least laid aside, all the ornaments and improvements he had reaped from his travels, and returned, as if with increased relish, to all his former loathsome and savage habits. His clothes were thrown away as burthensome restraints on the freedom of his limbs, and he became again as compleat a New Hollander, as if he had never left his native wilds. Indeed the same observation holds good with respect to the rest of his countrymen, for although they are continually craving for clothes, it is but seldom, very seldom, they appear in them a second time.

It must not indeed be denied, that Bennelong is somewhat advanced beyond his countrymen in European acquisitions, for he can occasionally converse with ease and even interest. The names of Lady Sydney, and Lady Jane Dundas, are often in his mouth, and he appears justly grateful for the favours received from these his fair patronesses. It is not unpleasing to listen to his relations of the wonders seen by him during his abode in England. One incident in particular he relates with all the satisfaction of a favourite story: that of being at the house of a very respectable gentleman, and surrounded with number-

less visitors of curiosity, an old gentleman, unmoved amidst the general eagerness, took no further notice of him than bestowing on him a single glance; and then helped himself bountifully to a pinch of snuff, and requested the company to pass the bottle, which for some time had been quite neglected. This apathy, and inflexible gravity, seems to have made more impression on the mind of Bennelong than all the wonders and glitters of dress that he had seen that evening; and from the pleasure he takes in relating this incident, he no doubt considers the old gentleman as one of the wisest men in the company, or perhaps in England.

The curiosity always attached to the character of a new people, will be admitted as an excuse for the introduction of Bennelong; as this chief, as I have before mentioned, is his countrymen in epitome. He is so addicted to drinking, that he would scarcely ever be sober, could he obtain spirits, and whenever he is intoxicated is intolerably mischievous. On the return of his sobriety he repents, but his repentance has scarcely procured his forgiveness, before the repetition of his offence again exhausts all patience. He is in truth a savage beyond all hopes of amelioration by any possible mode of culture, and was at the time of our sailing sent to Coventry as incorrigibly incurable.

A gentleman of great humanity made the trial of cultivating a young native boy and girl, beginning with them from their infancy, justly thinking that this early commencement gave the best promise of success.

They were accordingly strictly and anxiously attended, and supplied with food, clothes, and every thing either necessary to their comfort, or to the forming them to European habits: no sooner, however, upon their advanced age, were they restored to their free choice, and liberty of action, than throwing aside all their European improvements, and rejecting with disdain all the habits of civilized life, they returned to their countrymen, and preferred even the famine of a savage life to all the plenty and comparative luxury of civil society. Numberless are the other examples of the same kind; indeed so many, as almost to induce a conclusion that a New Hollander is physically incapable of civilization. Their wild and roving nature will not admit them to settle to any thing, or any place; a life of hunting and fishing, changing their place according to their caprice, or the dearth or plenty of their food, can only gratify their inordinate love of variety.

The very same unsocial propensity, unfortunate as it impedes their progress to civilization, exists amongst all the natives of the South Seas; whether being rooted by long and early habit, or that it is considered as a point of honour, and a proof of courage, not to desert their natural soil. But, different even

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from the most savage people of these seas, the natives of New South Wales appear to want the smallest portion of natural modesty: clothes are almost daily given to some or other of them, yet may they be daily seen naked in the streets of Sydney and Paramatta. To me, indeed, they appeared altogether the most stupid and insensible race of men I had ever seen.

They are wholly without any form of government, or any family, or individual, whom they acknowledge as their king, or chief. If there exists any superiority, it is that of personal strength or courage, and the only distinction they procure their possessor, is that of being more frequently summoned to assist in avenging the real or fancied injuries of his friends and neighbours. Their only divisions, as a people, are into families which frequent or inhabit particular places, and are thus distinguished by the names of those places; thus the families living at Botany Bay are collectively called Widgal; those at Rose Bay Cardagal; at Broken Bay, Camera Gal; and near Paramatta, Wan Gal. Colbe, one of their most reputed warriors, was a Wae Gal; and Bennelong, a Wan Gal.

They sometimes marry into other families, but seem to consider this union as unlawful between relations nearer than first cousins. They observe no particular ceremony in their marriages, though their mode of courtship is not without its singularity. When a young man sees a female to his fancy, he informs her she must accompany him home; the lady refuses; he not only enforces compliance with threats but blows; thus the gallant, according to the custom, never fails to gain the victory, and heart of the willing, though struggling pugilist. The colonists for some time entertained the idea that the women were compelled, and forced away against their inclinations; but the young ladies informed them, that this mode of gallantry was the custom, and perfectly to their taste.

The women appear to attach themselves faithfully to their husbands thus chosen; they are exceeding jealous of them, and it must be confessed not without just cause. From this source indeed flow the greater part of their quarrels; which usually commence with two or three individuals, and thence extend themselves to families, and the neighbouring tribes. In these instances, as before observed, their battles are furious beyond description, and seldom terminate but in the death of many of the combatants; they cast and ward off their spears with uncommon dexterity, and when in close quarter wield their massy clubs with the most determined courage. As they possess no other property, the women are at once the cause of the war, and the spoil of the victory.

The male infant no sooner begins to use his limbs than he is instructed in throwing the spear; a bulrush, or other reed, being put into his hand for this purpose. Whilst the female

child is in its infancy, they deprive it of the two first joints of the little finger of the right hand; the operation being effected by obstructing the circulation by means of a tight ligature: the dismembered part is thrown into the sea, that the child may hereafter be fortunate in fishing. They have also a custom of extracting from the male children about the age of puberty one of their front teeth: this operation is performed very simply by their curradgies or wise men, by knocking it out with a stone. This ceremony takes place every third or fourth year; the youths of several adjacent districts assemble with their friends, and have a feast and dance upon the occasion. It is considered a good promise of the boy's courage to exhibit an unshaken fortitude on this trial, and being their initiation in manhood, they are from this period allowed to fight their enemies, and hunt the kangaroo. I have seen a dozen of them inflicting a supposed punishment upon one of their number; the little fellows were equally as ambitious as the bravest warriors in the country could be to exhibit their heroism; and the party punished defended himself with the most determined courage, returning the spear of his assailant with double interest, for he was generally a picked hand.

But notwithstanding their natural courage, they stand in great awe of our fire-arms, a circumstance of very considerable consequence to the out-settlers, as it checks the inroads they might otherwise be disposed to make, and which in a country like Botany Bay, and detached as these settlers are, it would be no easy matter to repel.

The curradgies are very old men, and in high esteem among this people; they cure their diseases, give their advice in matters of consequence, and are resorted to as umpires in their quarrels. They pretend to have the gift of prescience, and to hold communication with the spirits of their deceased friends. Some families pretend to the inheritance of this gift of prophecy, but they gain no credit 'till advanced in years. If it is necessary in England that a witch should be an old woman, it is as necessary in Botany Bay that a curradgie should be an old man.

INTERESTING TRIAL.

Middlesex Sessions, October, 1805.

Emigrating Artisans.

JOHN BARROW was indicted for a misdemeanor, for that he, being an artisan, did promise, contract, and prepare to leave this kingdom, and carry along with him the art and mystery

mystery of his trade and calling, contrary to the act of parliament, &c.

Mr. Gurney, for the prosecution, stated, that it was not carried on with any view to injure the defendant; but as an example to other artisans, to deter them from the like, and to prevent the communication of these arts, in which we excel other nations, so as to enable them to equal, or perhaps rival us. The defendant in this indictment was a machine-maker, and one of the most ingenious artisans in England; it was not, by any means, meant to attach any thing of criminality to him, but to secure his remaining in this kingdom, that this prosecution was instituted. By the 5th of George 1st it was enacted, that any persons attempting, or endeavouring to seduce any artisans or workmen in the various branches of wood, iron, steel, &c. should be liable to, and prosecuted under heavy penalties; and, it was further enacted, that any artisan or tradesman who should promise, contract, or prepare to leave the kingdom, should be liable to heavy penalties. This indictment, however, was not against the person seducing the artist, but against the artist himself, and all that was required, was his giving security not to leave the kingdom.

Mr. Alley, for the defendant, contended, that this could only apply to persons who did not return home within the six months proclamation provided for in the statute of George 2d. The act had been repealed by a subsequent one, encreasing the penalties, and, therefore, he considered the court not to have any jurisdiction in the present case.

This objection was over-ruled, and evidence was called.

Mr. Cook, an eminent iron-founder, stated, that he knew the defendant, who was a machine-maker, and, in his opinion, the first artisan in this, or any other country; he could take a piece of iron in the rough, work it up, turn it, make the lathe for turning it, and all the necessary tools to work with; he thought him one of the most ingenious men in England, and perfectly master of all the mechanical arts. He was proceeding to state the examination of the defendant before the magistrates, when Mr. Alley objected to it, as the examinations were taken down in writing, and should be produced.

Sir Richard Ford was examined as to the fate of the examinations, who stated, that finding it necessary to have a communication with Lord Mulgrave on the subject, he took the depositions with him to his lordship's office, where he left them with his secretary, and, after minute search, was not since able to find them.

Mr. Cooke then resumed; he said, when they went before the magistrates, the defendant admitted he was preparing to go to Russia, and had all his things packed up; he had received a letter from a friend at Moscow, inviting him to go, for the purpose

purpose of manufacturing agricultural machinery. He was the principal instigator of this prosecution, not to hamper or distress the defendant, but to show other artificers they were not to emigrate with impunity.

Mr. Alley made a very able defence, in the course of which, he went into a long discussion of the several acts of parliament upon this subject, and contended in support of the privilege of every Englishman to go where he pleased; he submitted that the evidence was not adequate to authorise a conviction. The indictment, Proteus-like, had been tortured into various forms, and consisted of no less than twenty-four counts, each charging the offence in a different way. The poor man was not able to procure the security provided for in the act of parliament, which left no discretion in the magistrates; the consequence would be, that this poor man must remain in goal 'till he could procure security, which, perhaps, would be never, and the public and his family would be deprived of the benefit arising from his superior talents.

The chairman observed this to be a case different from all others he had ever met with; no charge whatever of criminality was attachable to the defendant, but that he was about doing that which the legislature had wisely provided against; they were then deciding upon the positive words of an act of parliament: and the question was, whether he had made such contract and preparation for going abroad? if so, he would be under the necessity of giving security against such an event. The learned counsel mistook, when he said the court had no discretion in this case; on the contrary, according to circumstances, they could appoint the security which should be given.

The jury found the defendant Guilty; and the court ordered, that he should enter into recognizances not to leave the kingdom, himself in 50l. and one or two sureties in 25l. or 12l. 10s. each. The latter was agreed to, and Mr. Cooke, the prosecutor, immediately became one of his bail.

Clifford and Louisa: Or the Evils of the Vice of Gaming.

A True Story.

[From Mrs. Crespigny's Letters.]

A Young man, whose real name, in the present narrative, will be disguised under that of Clifford, born to a considerable fortune, had that sort of an education calculated for the situation in life he was expected to fill. From Eton he went to college, and in both those seminaries of learning, distinguished himself for his talents and application. Among the acquain-

tance he made, was a nobleman, called Lord Dorset; he was sensible, clever, and good humoured, but careless and dissipated; he admired Clifford's abilities, was pleased with his manners, and courted his acquaintance; so that by degrees a strong friendship, according to the common acceptation of that word, was established between them; and, though Clifford adhered in a great degree to his own rational pursuits, yet he was so much attached to the company of his friend, that he devoted most of his spare time to him. They left college, and went abroad nearly at the same time; Lord Dorset soon entered into every species of dissipation, and, among others, acquired a love for play. The intimacy between them continued, and, by degrees, Lord Dorset drew Clifford into parties which, at first, he had determined not to join; but, being himself possessed of wit, spirit, sense, and a love of rational conviviality, he could not help receiving entertainment from the same talents in others, though blended with vices. Lord Dorset, though dissipated, was too discriminating, sensible, and well bred, not to know that vice unadorned, open, and naked, must be disgusting; it, therefore, was only suffered to creep in, and come forward by degrees, 'till, like the ivy, it spread over the whole trunk.

Play was introduced at their parties: at first moderation prevailed, 'till at last the custom of it created an attachment to it, and the hours, without it, appeared to pass languidly. When the love of this poison was sufficiently imbibed, and became a requisite, such stakes were proposed, and at last assented to, as would have at first startled the party; this continued some time, and Clifford became attached to an amusement that a year before he would not only have considered as dangerous, but as irksome.

About this time an English family arrived in Italy, a Mr. and Mrs. Mordant, a son and daughter. Louisa Mordant was one of the most lovely of her sex, with a highly cultivated understanding, and a temper at once firm and gentle, open to the most tender feelings, and steady and uniform in her friendship. Mr. Mordant's health was the cause of their leaving England, in hopes that the warmer sun, and milder climate of Italy, would stop the progress of a disorder, that seemed to threaten his valuable life. Mrs. Mordant's happiness depended on that of her family; and Henry Mordant, with every advantage that could adorn human nature, accompanied his revered parents to those climes which he ardently hoped would, by re-establishing his father's health, restore happiness to his whole family.

Lord Dorset and Clifford soon became acquainted with them; both those gentlemen admired Louisa—but who could not have admired her? Clifford excelled in music, and sang admirably well, so did Louisa, and they had continual parties in

which

which they were mutually engaged. Lord Dorset was likewise frequently with them, and at last became so particular in his attentions to Louisa, that there could be no doubt of his being seriously captivated: all at once Clifford became grave and pensive, shunned that society to which he had been so partial, and soon made known an intention of being absent, for some time, on business that called him to a considerable distance. The real business was to hide the torture of his mind, to shield his despair from observation; this it was that made him withdraw himself from a situation he could not support. Convinced that Lord Dorset loved, and was beloved by Louisa, he in vain struggled for fortitude and resignation; he could obtain neither, and, in hopes of acquiring them, when separated from an object so interesting to him, he determined upon a change of scene, and to gather from reflection that submission, which his feelings, and even reason, in his present situation, denied him.

He accordingly absented himself; a fortnight he staid away; a fortnight he wandered in solitude, or joined in the busiest throng; neither solitude, nor the busiest throng yielded him any comfort; his heart, a victim to love, had been wounded by its most barbed shaft, "strong understanding, cased in beauty's mould."—He now blamed himself for leaving Naples; he reflected that he was not certain that his fate was so hopeless as, perhaps, jealousy had represented; and the more he considered the less reason he had to believe that Louisa was partial to Lord Dorset. Of his partiality to her, Clifford had not any doubt, for he had avowed it after his first meeting with her, and it had evidently encreased as rapidly as possible. Her manners so changed, her whole appearance, expressive of embarrassment and solitude, her absence and abstraction, had confirmed the idea which Clifford had first formed;—yet, to be sure, upon strict and cool reflection, he thought she had always shewn more agitation upon his sudden appearance than upon Lord Dorset's.

He now repented of having left Naples, and very soon persuaded himself to return there: the idea once conceived- he immediately ordered his chaise, and flew back with more expedition than he had gone away; with perturbed feelings, he proceeded to Mr. Mordant's;—he met Mr. Mordant just at the door, who expressed great pleasure at his return, desired him to go to the apartment where he would find Mrs. Mordant, who he was sure would be very happy to see him again, and that he would join them in a few minutes, but was obliged to go out just then upon particular business. Clifford, unable to ask any interesting question, in great trepidation obeyed Mr. Mordant's commands, and hastened to Mrs. Mordant's apartments; he opened the door, but opened it so gently that Louisa, who was sitting with her back towards it, absorbed in thought, did not

hear him; he stood behind her, but plainly perceived that she was in tears;—in a moment more she clasped her hands and exclaimed, "Yes, unhappy creature!—but I will conquer my feelings, or die in the attempt."—Clifford's agitation was now so great that he panted for breath; she heard him, and, immediately starting up, hastily turned round; upon seeing him she was seized with such a tremor, that if he had not caught her she would have fallen to the ground. He could not articulate a word, and sank with her on a chair close by. "Forgive me," he at last faultered out "Oh! forgive me for my intrusion—I meant not to surprise—I was directed here by Mr. Mordant.—Oh Miss Mordant! pity me, pity me;" he could add no more, nor was she yet able to speak; at last, a flood of tears gave her some relief, and she said, "Where did you come from, Mr. Clifford, and why did you come in this sudden manner?" As well as he was able, he accounted for his sudden intrusion: "May I, dear Miss Mordant," continued he, "hope that you will forgive me? I will then fly from you for ever, though in so doing I go to wretchedness and despair; to stay here would, I too well know, be my certain destruction—I yield to the happy Dorset, and will endeavour to bear, to submit to my lot—to his superior claims to——" "I do not understand you, Mr. Clifford," stammered out Louisa, "as for Lord Dorset, he is gone from hence."—"Gone from hence!—when did he go? for how long?—why?—is he not blessed with your favour? is he not accepted?"—Louisa looked excessively confused, but answered quickly,—"Lord Dorset, never, I could not, I never felt any partiality for Lord Dorset." Had a flash of lightning shot across Clifford, in the midst of darkness, it could not have shewn him his situation more clearly than did Louisa's words, and the feelings with which they were evidently accompanied. Clifford was electrified, and exclaimed—"Oh, Miss Mordant! tell me, tell me, if you pardon this intrusion—say that my presence is not hateful to you, and save me, save me, from the most extreme wretchedness."—She could hardly breathe, but tears ran down her cheeks—he seized her hand—she did not withdraw it:—"Tell me," cried he, "that you do not banish me." "Banish you," she replied, "no, no." He now said "Permit me, then, most beloved of women, to tell you how dear you are to me, to tell you what I have suffered." "Yes," answered Miss Mordant, "I disdain art, I will acknowledge that I am most happy to see you, but——" "But what," repeated Clifford, "Oh do not repent of saving me, for if you now cruelly withdraw the hope you have given me, I am lost for ever." "Suffer me only," returned Miss Mordant, "to recollect myself a little, suffer me to recover from as sudden a termination of my unhappiness, as great as any you can have experienced."

The ecstacies that followed this acknowledgement I shall not attempt to describe: more than two hours had elapsed which were entirely employed by these lovers, in repeated declarations of mutual affection. They were interrupted by Mr. Mordant, who began with making apologies to Clifford for having been so long absent, saying that he had unluckily been detained longer than he expected. Clifford assured him that apologies were unnecessary, as his absence could not have been more than half an hour.

"Half an hour," exclaimed Mr. Mordant, "why it is near three hours:" he looked with attention at his daughter, whose late woe-worn countenance had undergone a surprising change: —"Why my love," said Mr. Mordant, "my Louisa, what has occurred?—you look more animated than I have seen you a long time; come to me, my love, and do explain what those looks mean." Louisa ran to her father, and, in a flood of tears, sunk upon his bosom: "Bless me," he exclaimed, "tell me what this means,—what I am to understand." "Mr. Clifford," he continued, "my poor girl has been very ill since you left us; we have been greatly alarmed, but she has had a severe trial to feelings like her's.—I am certain you are acquainted with Lord Dorset's partiality towards her—but he has carried it beyond proper bounds, and would not take a refusal as he should have done, which I acknowledge surprised me; yet his behaviour ought not to have made such an impression upon her as it did, but her apprehension from high words, that passed between my son and him, I believe, occasioned an alarm that has hurt her greatly.—Tell me, was this the subject that seemed to engross you both so much?"—Louisa hid her face in her father's bosom. —Clifford took her passive hand, and fervently kissed it.— "Dear, beloved, Miss Mordant," he exclaimed, "suffer me to tell Mr. Mordant that I shall be the happiest of human beings, if he and Mrs. Mordant will sanctify my aspiring hopes."—Mr. Mordant appeared in amazement:—"It is, then," said he, "as Mrs. Mordant suspected—she was right, my love,"—he continued, pressing Louisa closer to his bosom, "raise your Head, while I avow my delight at what I have just heard;—for, though I did not know of any exception to Lord Dorset, yet I freely acknowledge that my heart is more pleased with your present prospects." Clifford made a suitable return to that compliment, and Louisa raised her drooping head, and received all the encouragement she could require. She begged to withdraw, promising to see Clifford again as soon as she was a little tranquillized.—Mrs. Mordant immediately after came in; and, upon being informed of what had passed, expressed the joy she felt upon the occasion, and declared she had long suspected her daughter's secret attachment to Clifford.

I need not say that the happy lovers were never separate, but when absolutely necessary;—poor Louisa soon recovered her bloom, and Clifford his spirits, and a short time united them in the most sacred bands.

(To be continued.)

OBSERVATIONS *on* COMETS.

Written by NICHOLAS MUNCKLEY, Esq. Barrister at Law, and Nephew of the celebrated Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe, in 1756, but not published untill the prefent year.

THE Newtonian philosophy, and the observations of modern astronomers, have given sufficient reason to conclude that comets are not only solid and durable bodies, but also revolve round the sun in very eccentric ellipses, and, consequently, return within our system, and become visible to us at stated and regular periods. Yet what those precise periods are, has been determined only as to three of them with any great degree of probability, viz. the comet which appeared last in the year 1680, and is expected again about the year 2255; that which appeared in 1661, and is expected in 1789; and that which appeared in 1682, and is expected in 1758.

The first of these, that in 1680, was the comet which, more than any other, both acquired the most astonishing degree of heat by its amazing approximation to the sun, and threatened the earth with the nearest appulse. This was so near the sun at its perihelion that its distance from his surface was but a sixth part of the diameter of the sun's body; and therefore the heat it then received was twenty-eight thousand times greater than that of summer, or two thousand times hotter than red-hot iron. Its least distance from the annual orbit of the earth was, according to Dr. Halley's computation, no more than one semidiameter of the sun, or about the radius of the lunar orbit; and, consequently, if our globe had been in one particular part of its path, the comet might have been as near us as the moon. Upon examination of the orbit of this comet, it was found so very eccentric, that a revolution through it must require more than 500 years to complete it. Mention is made in history of the appearance of a similar comet, first at the death of Julius Cæsar and the celebration of the games by Augustus to his honour, and at two several times afterwards; each appearance at the distance of 575 years from the preceding. And a computation of the motion of this comet in an orbit which would requre that number of years for it to revolve in, was found to agree very well with the actual observations which were made of it. Its period therefore is fixed, by Dr. Halley, Mr. Whiston, &c. at 575 years;

and its return is expected, with great probability, about the year 2255.

The second comet whose period is supposed to be known, is that which appeared in the year 1661, and which seems to be the same with that which was seen before in 1532; but the observations of it then are scarce exact enough to allow this to be determined with certainty. However, if this conjecture be right, the period of this comet will be about 129 years, and its next return about the year 1789.

The third comet, and that whose appearance is soonest to be expected, is that which was seen last in the year 1682. There is great reason to imagine this the same with that which appeared first in 1456, though not then observed by any astronomically, and which was afterwards taken more exact notice of in 1531, 1607, and especially 1682. Every thing relating to the comets seen in these several years agree, excepting the little inequality of the intervals, which, however, as Dr. Halley observes, is no more than may be well accounted for by physical causes; as, for instance, by the disturbances the comet may have received in its orbit from its approach to other heavenly bodies, such things having been certainly known to happen with regard to the planet Saturn, and the much greater eccentricity of the ellipses of comets undoubtedly making these liable to more considerable irregularities. The small difference, therefore, in the intervals of the years mentioned already, is by no means a sufficent objection against supposing it to be the same comet which was seen in all of them. Its period will, consequently, be about 75 or 76 years, and its next return about the year 1758. This comet is far from being in any particular degree threatening or dangerous to our globe, (if indeed any comets at all are so,) because this is not among those which either receive the greatest heat from the sun, or approach nearest to the orbit of the earth.

If these comets should appear again at the periods they are expected, it is easy to see what a confirmation it will be of the truth of the Newtonian philosophy relating to them: but, on the other hand, if any of them should not do so, it will by no means be sufficient to overthrow it, since it cannot be imagined that they should preserve the same regularity in their periods as the planets; because, as I have intimated already, the eccentricity of their orbits must necessarily expose them to greater alterations from the heavenly bodies they may meet with in their course. Dr. Halley particularly observes, about the comet in 1682, which is supposed to be the soonest to revisit us, that a very little increase of its velocity may even occasion a change in its orbit from an ellipsis to a parabola, the consequence of which will be, that it can never return to us at all. The mere failure, therefore, of the re-appearance of this or any other comet, must

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not be considered as confuting a theory built upon the same solid foundations as the theory of the planets, answering with wonderful accuracy the observations of astronomers, and accounting for them by the best-established physical causes.

In regard to what may probably be the effects of comets, or the uses for which they are designed by the supreme Creator and Preserver of the Universe; however generally they have been apprehended the causes or fore-runners of evil, there are not wanting philosophers, and those among the best and most religious ones, who appear to consider them rather as instruments of the beneficence of the Deity. This seems particularly to be the opinion of Sir Isaac Newton. He conjectures, that the tails of comets are intended to supply the diminution of moisture on our earth and the other planets, and may in a great measure furnish that most subtile and excellent part of our air which is requisite to the life of all things: for as these tails are undoubtedly the vapours exhaled from the gross atmospheres of comets by the action of the sun, they will dilate as they ascend, and will gradually be dispersed through all the planetary regions; and therefore, in consequence of the power of gravitation and attraction, will be gathered into and absorbed by any planets that may be nearest to them, and stand most in need of their assistance. The bodies of the comets may also be as serviceable to our system as their tails, especially the bodies of those which have the greatest approximation to the sun, since these may possibly at their perihelion move within the solar atmosphere, and from its resistance be somewhat retarded: if so, at every revolution they will meet with a greater resistance, and be yet more retarded, and consequently at length fall into the body of the sun, and supply any decrease which may have happened in that vast globe of fire by the continual emission of light and heat for so great a number of centuries.

If it still be imagined, with Dr. Gregory, a deference due to the common suffrage of all ages to consider comets as having a pernicious influence upon our earth, such influence cannot, possibly, I think, be of any partial or political nature, but must be some physical disorder or mischief to the whole globe. For instance: Dr. Gregory supposes, that if the tail of a comet should touch our atmosphere, or fall upon it by its own gravity, the vapours belonging to the comet, brought from the most distant and different regions, might, by mixing with our air, produce in it an alteration very sensible, especially by animals and vegetables, and possibly prove destructive to terrestrial constitutions. And Mr. Whiston imagines, that comets seem fit to cause vast mutations in the planets, particularly in bringing on them deluges or conflagrations, according as the planets pass through their atmospheres in their descent or ascent to the sun. If these conjectures appear founded upon the best established

blished theory, or the most certain experience, they must no doubt be considered as probable: but surely, as to the pretended concurrent testimony of all ages, it is neither strictly universal nor uniform; and if the mere consent of many nations and centuries is to induce us to the reverence and belief of popular opinions, we shall be obliged to receive the grossest and most impious absurdities in philosophy, in religion, and even in morality.

Anecdote of Mr. Nield, the philanthropic Treasurer to the Society for relieving Persons imprisoned for small Debts.

THIS gentleman had long been in the habit of receiving so many penny-post letters, as to have given orders that none should be taken in, but such as were post-paid. His maid-servant, however, being married off, and another come in her place, he one day found a penny-post letter, unpaid, lying upon his table; he hesitated whether he should not send it back to the post-office, but, at last, resolved to open it. What was his surprise, when he found it contained a bank note for 1000l. without a word said from whom it came, or how it was to be disposed of? The direction on the outside was simply, "James Nield, Esq." He carried it to the meeting of the above society, which consisted of many of the first characters, when they refused to receive it, as it was not even directed to him "Treasurer of the Society for the Relief of Persons imprisoned for small Debts." He insisted, however, that they should take it, as he knew of no person who was likely to send him such a present. Advertisements were inserted in the papers, acknowledging the receipt, and stating to what purpose it had been applied; but no account has ever been received from what quarter it came!

In the year 1772, the above-mentioned society was first established, under the auspices of Mr. Nield, from which period, to the year 1802, the prison doors had been thrown open to 19,063 debtors, who had 11,399 wives, and 32,871 children! These have been chiefly manufacturers, mechanics, labourers, seamen, and the members of the meaner, but essential branches of trade and commerce; in general confined for very small sums!

The above benevolent gentleman has, since the year 1772, three times visited the different gaols and places of confinement in this kingdom, at his own expence, and to his representations, aided by the humane exertions of Dr. Lettsom, are principally to be attributed their present improved state! Who, therefore, can doubt the veracity of such a disinterested character?

Mr. Nield, although he has outlived the immortal Howard, was the precursor of that great man, and stimulated Mr. Howard's philanthropy by his example. Last year, Mr. Nield served the office of high sheriff, for Buckinghamshire, when Judge Grose, in his address to the grand jury, took an opportunity of congratulating them on their having such an ornament to society, such an honour to human nature, and such a benefactor to mankind, to fill that office.

PARISIAN FASHIONS *for* OCTOBER.

HOWEVER *mediocre* the dress of a fashionable lady, she must wear a large bunch of natural flowers at her side when full dressed. In artificial *bouquets* almost every flower of the season is worn in detached bunches, tufts, and garlands. Some green buds are frequently mixed with tufts of pink; and it is very common to see leaves round bunches of roses. These leaves seem to indicate the season; they are of the pale autumnal yellow. The flowers that grow in corn fields are as fashionable as pinks: pinks are worn in large tufts, and with every kind of delicate colours, such as apricots, lilacs, and flesh colour. Sleeves continue to be worn very much puffed up, short, and ornamented with ribbands. Notwithstanding many flowers are worn, ribbands are not spared. Colours have not changed; pure white, rose, delicate yellow, apple green, and dark green are worn. Many very small Turkish borders are seen on white undresses; the waist, round the neck, and the ends of sleeves, are ornamented with these small edgings. Combs are placed in the front of the hair, which appear to be falling from the head: the hair to which the comb attaches falls in whisps on the temple; a smooth band of loose hair is placed obliquely on the forehead; and a plot of the flowers of the season is put above the right temple. Silk mittens of flesh colour, with elastic bracelets, or open cotton worked mittens are worn in elegant undress; mittens made of clear muslin, trimmed at the ends with a small lace, are also worn. Taffeta *capotes* are made extremely deep, with flounces in length, and not in circumference; several of green taffeta, as well as white, striped with straw, have been seen.

Formerly the ladies' *costumes* were unchangeably alike; and the gentlemen, on the contrary, had each their peculiarity; now every lady has her original *costume*, favourite colour, particular manner of dressing herself, and the gentlemen seem all cut out from the same pattern.

On Sunday it is always the *bon ton*, when a fashionable remains in Paris, to affect complete undress; but it is the extreme

bon

bon ton not to be seen at all, and to visit the votive *fetes* of the neighbouring villages. Nothing is more brilliant than the rural dances, and none are more frequented than those in the neighbourhood of the valley of Montmorency. There, on the cool down, and *pele-mele* with the inhabitants of the country, an *elegante* does not disdain to shew her *citadines* graces, nor to repeat her olympic steps. All who surround the celebrated dancer, admire and endeavour to imitate her. In a few years the French country people will be able to dance the *bollero*, and the *gavotte*.

The Parisian ladies study one thing particularly in their dresses; nomely, their shoes. The gentlemen's shoes cover the instep, and are of a form to make their feet appear very long. The ladies, on the contrary, adopt every means to shorten and thicken their feet. Several, like the Chinese, have no sole to their shoes, which are made of transparent stuff; or if bad weather compels them to adopt a *sombre* stuff, it is always edged with a ribband, and ornamented with a rose of the same colour.

FASHIONS *for* NOVEMBER.

SATIN hats, of various shapes, with a long ostrich feather; turbans of satin, muslin, &c. with bands and veils richly embroidered in gold and silver *lame*, as usual, for dress. Velvet mantles, with beautiful embossed borders all round; spencers and pelisses the same; hats and bonnets, embossed to correspond, with feathers, or without. The morone shawls are too common to remain long in fashion. White muffs and tippets are worn both for dress and undress. Silver bear is much more elegant than black.

The dresses continue to be exactly as usual, nor is there any change in the stile of dressing the hair. There is no change in the form of dresses, nor in hair-dressing; velvet is more worn than ever; we do not find that any particular colour prevails; bottle-green appears rather a favourite mantle, and pelisses are lined with a different colour from the outside. Scarlet velvet tippets, trimmed with swansdown, are much worn.

ON NATIONAL MANNERS.

THE manners, the monuments, the customs, the practices, the opinions of antiquity, form a strong contrast with our own. Human nature is exhibited both in new and unexpected forms; and the enquiry is productive at once both of entertainment and utility. In the perusal of such works, the reader

must frequently acquiesce in anecdotes of inconsiderable consequence; yet in these, the most conspicuous examples of antiquity are commemorated; the progress of art ascertained; our early legislative institutions illustrated; the ancient peculiarities of domestic character laid open; ages of former action inquired into; the venerable memorials of other times, and the proud monuments of feudal magnificence, explained; monastic history and manners developed; and an interest given to some objects that may at first appear but simple *bagatelles*. In these he may trace the gradual progress of good taste; and will have occasional opportunities of viewing the progressive rise of civil institutions. He will be led to consider the objects of pursuit which the antiquary follows, as at once useful, interesting, and comprehensive; and will find, that what are called the greatest discoveries in science are but the result of progressive and accumulated knowledge.

There are few nations so attentive as our own to all that throws light on ancient history; and the reason, perhaps, is obvious. Our circumscribed condition in an island makes the field of investigation seem, at first sight, not so vast, and, of course, better calculated to incite perseverance. Besides which, the great multiplicity of remains, Celtic, Roman, Saxon, Danish, and Norman, having all their separate peculiarities, are not only interesting to us in a national view, but lead us to an extensive and fond acquaintance with the remotest ages.

AN ANECDOTE.

SOME of the crew of one of the ships lately paid off at Yarmouth had occasion to go ashore at that place, and being flush of prize-money, betook themselves to the play-house and other places of amusement. Among the number was an ambitious boatswain, who, after equipping himself in a splendid suit, richly bedizened with gold, and only a few dozen of years behind the fashion, strutted, in a full dress suit of lace and ruffles into one of the boxes, and resolved, for one night, to be a gentleman.

While the surrounding company knew not how to interpret the incongruity of our hero's apparel with his hard and weather-beaten countenance, one of his brother tars, spying from the gallery a face which he thought familiar to him, said to a messmate beside him, "Jack, I'll be hanged if that there be not our boatswain in the side-box, dressed like a ship's commander." "Pshaw (said the other), our boatswain among the gentlefolks! it cannot be!" The first tar then halloed out, "Boatswain, O hoy!" The boatswain, being taken by surprise, started up, and cried, "Halloo," to the great merriment of the audience.

Answer, by Detector, to T. Z.'s Enigma, inserted September 9.

A GUN or CANNON will display
The subject of your borrow'd lay.*

§†§ We have received the like answer from Adrianus; T. Adey, of Poole; H. Glasson, of Clowance; T. Wyatt, of Tiverton; W. Bickham, jun. of Ashburton; J. J. and J. E. of Lyme Regis; P. Gove, and J. Lake, of Exeter; P. Codd, of Dean Prior; Primrose, of Taunton; R. Perring, of Kingsbridge; Palemon, of Mevagissey; W. Mann, of Launceston; and a north country sailor at Exmouth.

* This enigma was inserted in the Entertainer for July 11, 1791.

Answer, by S. C. Moore, of Horsewell House, to T. Prout's Charade, inserted the 9th of September.

YOUR first and second join'd aright,
TUBEROSE presents itself to sight.

☞ We have received a similar answer from W. Bickham, jun. of Ashburton; Adrianus; and a north country sailor at Exmouth.

A CHARADE, *by T. Jarvis, of Malborough.*

MY first, ye gents. our cranium doth screen;
My next, in Laura's lovely face is seen:
Avaunt my whole, to the infernal den,
Henceforth no more disturb the minds of men.

A CHARADE, *by T. Rutger, of Clowance.*

MY first oft, with a social friend,
In converse free I like to spend,
It life doth seem to cherish;
Nor do I then my next refuse,
But its contents do frequent chuse,
To taste it gives a relish.
Still midst this scene of transient joy,
O let me e'er my mind employ,
Fair virtue's truths commending;
For mark my whole! time's rapid tide,
How swiftly do its moments glide,
To joys or woes ne'er ending!

A CHARADE, *by Palemon, of Mevagissey.*

WHEN with Eliza, Sirs, I rove,
Unto my first in yonder grove,
How pleasing 'tis to hear
The linnets on the yielding spray
In sweetest notes of melody,
Their feathery comrades cheer!
While I rehearse my amorous tale,
The neighbouring grove, and distant vale,
With music doth resound;
Sagacious youths, pray find a weight:
These two cemented bring to sight,
A poet that's renown'd.

POETRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

The MAID *of the* MOUNTAINS.

ON the hills of Carnarvon, so rugged and steep,
Where the rude storm of winter blows sullen and cold;
Fair Ellen, the maid of the mountains, is seen
Like a poor wasted lamb that has strayed from the fold.

But where are the roses that bloom'd in her cheek?
And the eyes that have soften'd the anguish of care?
The roses, alas! have been nipp'd by deceit;
And her blue eyes are dimm'd by the tears of despair.

Her bosom, that glow'd with sensations divine,
Now heaves with remorse, like the waves of the deep,
As cold to the touch, and as pale to the eye
As the snow that descends on the brow of the steep.

Full oft she exclaims, in the rage of the blast,
" Roar on ye cold winds thro' the storm-troubled air;
" Descend ye chill drops on my comfortless breast,
" And cool the fierce frenzy that tortures me there.

" Ah man! cruel man! to thy falshood I owe
" The pangs that incessantly prey on my heart;
" You found me in peace, but have left me to mourn,
" And curse the dark wiles of ungenerous art.

" Go—go, ye fierce tyrants, your vices pursue,
" And triumph o'er bosoms as simple as mine,
" But know, base deceivers, a judge will appear,
" Whose arm is Almighty—whose justice, divine."

Thus oft would she grieve on the hills of the north,
'Till arous'd from her dream by the shepherd's soft lute;
When swift, wing'd with terror, she'd spring o'er the rocks,
And bound like the roe from the hunter's pursuit.

Methinks, hapless nymph! I still gaze on thy flight,
As fear drives thee high on the mountain's bleak brow;
And my heart sighs a curse on the treacherous wretch,
That could nip such a beautiful blossom as thou.

HENRY.

For the WEEKLY ENTERTAINER.

DRUNKENNESS.

MONSTER, avaunt! with all thy horrid train
Of hell-born vices, and misfortunes dire!
Not the most furious beasts that range the plain
Can be more brutal in their hottest ire!

Reason all other passions may obey,
And at her throne, tho' with reluctance, bend;
But thou, ungovernable, scorn'st her sway,
And rudely spurn'st the heaven-descended friend.

Ah

Ah me! what is that scene before mine eyes?
What every other being must despise,
Who owns his dignity divine:
Lo! 'tis a drunkard, grov'ling, basely rude!
Picture of folly, vice, ingratitude!
Sport of the low-born mob, and every fiend malign!

Sherborne. B. AYRES.

On recovering from a severe Fit of the Gout.

HYGÆIA, blooming nymph! assist my song,
Oft have I gambol'd in thy sportive train;
To thee the sprightly joys of youth belong,
Whilst age brings nothing but disease and pain.
I've counted oft all night the tedious hours,
Impatient waited the return of morn,
The gouty sufferer's friend—thanks, gracious powers,
For this short respite to a wretch forlorn:
Yet let me not arraign thy just decree,
Unerring wisdom sends the chast'ning rod,
To shew us what we are, and what must be,
Ere we approach the presence of our God.
Celestial! awful thought! but pause my muse,
Returning health on rosy pinion flies,
Stays the uplifted dart, O! let me not misuse
The gracious boon—ere long thy victim dies.

E. W.

Lines written at Sea, on losing Sight of the Land.

ADIEU, lov'd scenes, where first I saw the light,
For you my bosom heaves the deep-felt sigh,
While now in distance far your hills recede,
And leave to billowy wastes the cheerless eye.
When tropic lands unbounded stretch around,
Still o'er those mountains blue shall fancy roam;
And, Lyme, thy shores with rural beauty crown'd,
Thro' every change my heart shall fondly own.
Nor all the charms of India's happy clime
From this dear hope can ever win my breast,
That where the cloudless morn of life was mine,
In tranquil age these wearied limbs may rest;
That in the vale where winds my native stream,
O'er my last sleep the evening sun may beam!

Y.

CIVILIZED WAR.

CIVILIZ'D war! how strangely pair'd these terms
Must strike on pensive rumination's ear!
Civiliz'd war! say, did the mouth of man,
Fantastic marriers of unsuited words,
Two so unmatch'd, so much each other's hate,
With force tyrannic, ere together yoke?
Civiliz'd war! Thanks, gentle Europe! thanks,
For having dress'd the monster's hideous form,
And veil'd his roughness in so soft a name,
That tender souls of weak hysteric frame,
Might hear with less of tremor he is loose!